



October 29, 2021

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Thank you for convening the task force on broadband. We commend your leadership and the task force's work, which culminated in the Task Force on Broadband Draft Report.

We concur with the report findings that "Improving quality of life, reducing costs, and facilitating fair and competitive markets are key goals in developing and advancing Alaska's economy...deploying and operating broadband networks that can deliver high-speed, reliable, and affordable communications services to Alaska's residents and businesses is an integral part of that effort."

As one of Alaska's largest broadband and managed IT service providers with a 120+ year history serving Alaskans, we are ready to support your efforts to get affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to all.

In particular, we support these key recommendations in the report:

- Deploy infrastructure to meet the needs of unserved and underserved locations across Alaska.
- Establish a Federal Grant-Matching fund that will allow the State of Alaska to leverage available federal broadband infrastructure dollars that require some proportion of matching funds.
- Adopt policies that are technology neutral, recognizing the inherent advantages of different technologies for reliable, affordable, and usefulness into the future.
- Maintain a balanced focus on upgrading and extending last mile AND middle-mile technologies, given rural Alaska's unique challenges and needs.

We also concur that the State should create a broadband office to accept and distribute federal broadband infrastructure dollars. We recommend this office have a sunset review. We've researched other state broadband offices and, based on best practices, recommend the office have a focused scope, to include:

- Coordinating stakeholder engagement
- Facilitating a process for distributing broadband grants principally to unserved or underserved areas (among other criteria)
- Focusing on end-user quality of service and affordability

We appreciate your leadership and support and know that by working together we can connect more Alaskans with high-speed internet than ever before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Bishop'.

Bill Bishop, President and CEO

cc: Randy Ruaro, Chief of Staff, Governor Dunleavy  
Hallie Bissett, Chair, Governor's Task Force on Broadband